WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 11 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MARCH 2003

Preventative Strike Against YOUR Neighbor!

Terry Jones (ex Monty Python)

I'm really excited by George Bush's latest reason for bombing Iraq: he's running out of patience. And so am I! For some time now I've been really pissed off with Mr Johnson, who lives a couple of doors down the street.

Well, him and Mr Patel, who runs the health food shop. They both give me queer looks, and I'm sure Mr Johnson is planning something nasty for me, but so far I haven't been able to discover what.

I've been round to his place a few times to see what he's up to, but he's got everything well hidden. That's how devious he is. As for Mr Patel, don't ask me how I know, I just know - from very good sources - that he is, in reality, a Mass Murderer. I have leafleted the street telling them that if we don't act first, he'll pick us off one by one. Some of my neighbours say, if I've got proof, why don't I go to the police? But that's simply ridiculous. The police will say that they need evidence of a crime with which to charge my neighbours. They'll come up with endless red tape and quibbling about the rights and wrongs of a pre-emptive strike and all the while Mr Johnson will be finalising his plans to do terrible things to me, while Mr Patel will be secretly murdering people.

Since I'm the only one in the street with a decent range of automatic firearms, I reckon it's up to me to keep the peace. But until recently that's been a little difficult. Now, however, George W. Bush has made it clear that all I need to do is run out of patience, and then I can wade in and do whatever I want! And let's face it, Mr Bush's carefully thought-out policy towards Iraq is the only way to bring about international peace and security. The one certain way to stop Muslim fundamentalist suicide bombers targeting the US or the UK is to bomb a few Muslim countries that have never threatened us.

That's why I want to blow up Mr Johnson's garage and kill his wife and children. Strike first! That'll teach him a lesson. Then he'll leave us in peace and stop peering at me in that totally unacceptable way.

Mr Bush makes it clear that all he needs to know before bombing Iraq is that Saddam is a really nasty man and that he has weapons of mass destruction — even if no one can find them. I'm certain I've just as much justification for killing Mr Johnson's wife and children as Mr Bush has for bombing Iraq. Mr Bush's long-term aim is to make the world a safer place by eliminating 'rogue states' and 'terrorism'. It's such a clever long-term aim because how can you ever know when you've achieved it? How will Mr Bush know when he's wiped out all terrorists? When every single terrorist is dead? But then a terrorist is only a terrorist once he's committed an act of terror. What about would-be terrorists? These are the ones you really want to eliminate, since most of the known terrorists, being suicide bombers, have already eliminated themselves.

Perhaps Mr Bush needs to wipe out everyone who could possibly be a future terrorist? Maybe he can't be sure he's achieved his objective until every Muslim fundamentalist is dead? But then some moderate Muslims might convert to fundamentalism. Maybe the only really safe thing to do would be for Mr Bush to eliminate all Muslims? It's the same in my street. Mr Johnson and Mr Patel are just the tip of the iceberg. There are dozens of other people in the street who I don't like and who - quite frankly - look at me in odd ways. No one will be really safe until I've wiped them all out. My wife says I might be going too far but I tell her I'm simply using the same logic as the President of the United States. That shuts her up.

Like Mr Bush, I've run out of patience, and if that's a good enough reason for the President, it's good enough for me. I'm going to give the whole street two weeks - no, 10 days - to come out in the open and hand over all aliens and interplanetary hijackers, galactic outlaws and interstellar terrorist masterminds, and if they don't hand them over nicely and say 'Thank you', I'm going to bomb the entire street to kingdom come. It's just as sane as what George W. Bush is proposing - and, in contrast to what he's intending, my policy will destroy only one street.

This originally appeared as a Letter to the Editor of the London Observer.

Fifteen Years of Solidarity with Nicaragua

The Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association will celebrate its 15th anniversary at 7 pm on Saturday, March 15th, 2003 at the Capitol Theater in downtown Olympia. The TSTSCA is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that invites you to reflect on and celebrate its fifteen-year relationship and commitment to Santo Tomás, a community in south central Nicaragua. Local documentarian Carol Burns will unveil her powerful video telling the story of this sister relationship and why it exists. I had the opportunity to interview Carol in February, excerpts from which appear in the article below, and I want to give some context to her words.

In essence, the sixty-five minute film describes the varied work that the two communities have accomplished together over the years. It begins with Nicaraguans talking about the value and meaning of the sister county relationship. Moving back through the reality of the US orchestrated Contra War during the late eighties, the video introduces the construction brigades from Seattle and Olympia that helped build schools in Nicaragua while our government was intent on destroying them. She introduces some of the members of TSTSCA and its sister organization in Santo Tomás: the Committee for Community Development, an umbrella non-profit organization that supports a number of community projects. Carol uses numerous interviews with Nicaraguans from Santo Tomás juxtaposed with interviews of Olympians to paint a detailed picture of the personal relationships that have been formed through this work. She weaves together footage of interactions with delegates from Santo Tomás and images of the small-scale development projects on the ground in Nicaragua. Carol presents the connections established with students at The Evergreen State College and Lincoln Elementary, which has a sister school in Santo Tomás.

The documentary moves from the mid-eighties to the late-nineties, from the horrific war to the post-war shattered economy, as Nicaragua became the most highly indebted (per capita) nation in the Western Hemisphere. It demonstrates how people from Olympia and Santo Tomás mutually benefit from the sister relationship while also showing how the relationship provokes us, in the North, to examine the causes of the inequities between the North and South. Through it all, there is love, affection and commitment between the sister communities, and the struggle for a deeper understanding of ourselves and each other.

Carol had the support and gratitude of several members of TSTSCA on this project. Stephanie Guilloud, Stephen Bray and I contributed to the initial process of a storyline for this documentary in 1999. Steph and I translated interviews, as did Justin Umholtz, Joe Hiss, Judy Serrano, and Mike Harburg. My apologies extend to any other translators from over the years who I cannot remember at this time. Carol says that we could have pushed her more to move the documentary along faster, but we were appreciative of her laborious volunteer work and, besides, we weren't in a hurry!

(See related articles on page 4)

Revitalizing W.I.P.

by Sandy Mayes

In last month's issue, I reported on a major shake-up in the production process of this newspaper: the fact that Pat Tassoni can no longer serve as the paper's primary coordinator. Although it was not his original intent or desire, Pat has for several years carried the burden of ultimate responsibility for nearly every aspect of sustaining and producing Works In Progress. Last month Pat announced that, although he would continue to devote some time to the paper, he could no longer be available to serve in such an expansive capacity.

A call went out to WIP supporters to pull together in order to cover the many bases that would be vacated. A meeting was held and a few people stepped forward to pitch in. For now it appears that most of the bases are covered in terms of the production process and the general nuts and bolts of sustaining the paper but only because those who did come forward have taken on more than they can sustain in the long term. We need more team members on this important project – this is a great opportunity for those who care about this paper and have an interest in journalism and independent media.

Additionally, in coming together to address the immediate crisis of potentially unattended tasks, some old-time WIPsters suggested that more than simply managing that checklist, we need to somehow revive the community spirit that gave birth to the project in the beginning. What is needed is a more collective sense of ownership and responsibility and passion that extends amongst and well beyond those directly involved with producing the paper. The more this forum is utilized by local citizens who are energized and writing about various community and global issues, the more widely it will be valued and sought after and supported, thus creating a positive feedback loop that benefits everyone.

Last month I spoke of the survival of WIP. For now it looks as if the paper will survive – but will it thrive? This period of transition at WIP is a time of great opportunity for revitalizing this immensely valuable community resource. In addition to increased direct participation in producing the paper and supporting it financially, we need to see an increase in the degree to which this paper is utilized as a community forum. Bringing your issues and projects to these pages is an essential step toward the renewal of this newspaper and its role in the community.

One measure toward reviving a sense of community around the paper's production will be a resumption of the monthly Proofreading Meetings. These meetings serve not only as a final review of the paper before it goes to print but also give us a chance to connect and brainstorm. Whether you are a WIPster of yore or someone who has never been involved, you are encouraged to attend. In the coming months we will be exploring concrete measures which we can all take to contribute toward the revitalization of the Works In Progress. Please join us in that effort.

For more information about how to get involved contact Sandy at figtree@olywa.net. See page 2 for information about the next Proofreading Meeting.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Kayden
Chelsea Chase	Margaret Love
Sebastian Chase	Sandy Mayes
Renee Cruickshank	Hali Panneton
Megan Davis	Jeff Sowers
Teresa Jennings	Sylvia Smith
Jerome Johnson	Pat Tassoni

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, March 21st

Proofreading Meeting:

Monday, March 24th

Olympia Library at 6:30pm

PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
wip@olywa.net * www.olywa.net/wip

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Church Open If War Begins

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at 7th and Franklin in downtown Olympia, will open its sanctuary to the community for prayer and meditation in the event war begins with Iraq. The vigil will begin the day military action commences and be open too all who wish a quiet place to pray for peace and for all those affected by the war, whether in the service or as civilians. Poetry and prayers from all faith traditions will be available for use, if desired.

Call the church office (Sherrie 943-8025), for more information.

Freeway Overpass Anti-War Actions

Join with citizens all around the country who are waging peace every Saturday by participating in weekly Freeway Overpass Actions. In Thurston County we gather from 11AM to 1PM in three locations: 1) Sleater-Kinney Rd in Lacey, 2) 93rd (south of Tumwater), and 3) Mud Bay Rd over Hwy 101. Bring your own peace / anti-war signs or help hold one of our many large new weather-proof banners. For more information contact Sandy at figtree@olywa.net or call 956-1136. Also visit www.united4peacetc.org

Women's and Children's Peace Vigil

Saturday, March 8th

3pm Heritage Park, by Capitol Lake Olympia WA

Join us on International Women's Day for a snack-in and nurse-in to spell NO WAR on the lawn. Wear white or light colored clothes on top for contrast. Snack provided. Bring blanket or something to sit on wet grass. Women and children account for 80% of the world's refugees. Women account for 80% of civilian casualties of war worldwide!

NO MORE, NO WAR AGAINST IRAQ! For more info: email: nowaroly@yahoo.com for info or to help.

Death Penalty Conversation

The public is invited to discuss the pros and cons of the death penalty on **TUESDAY APRIL 1 at the Olympia Timberland Library** on 8th Ave between Franklin and Adams. Refreshments and literature tables will become available at 6:30 p.m., and the program will start promptly at 7:00 p.m.

This "Community Conversation on the Death Penalty" will invite the public to brainstorm a list of reasons they have heard for supporting the death penalty – and then to share information that corroborates or refutes those reasons. Next, participants will repeat the process for the other side of the controversy. They will brainstorm reasons they have heard for opposing the death penalty, and then share information that corroborates or refutes those reasons.

This free event is sponsored by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. The Olympia FOR has worked nonviolently since 1976 on a variety of peace and social justice issues. It is the local affiliate of a broadly interfaith, international pacifist organization founded in 1914. For information call Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olywa.net or see www.olyFOR.org

BEFORE YOU FORGET, GET INVOLVED! (SEE BELOW)

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South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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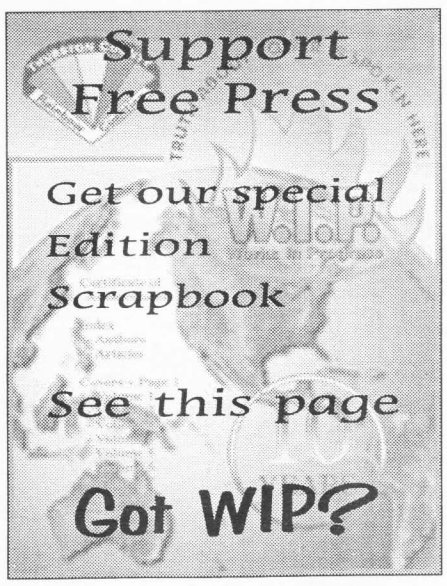

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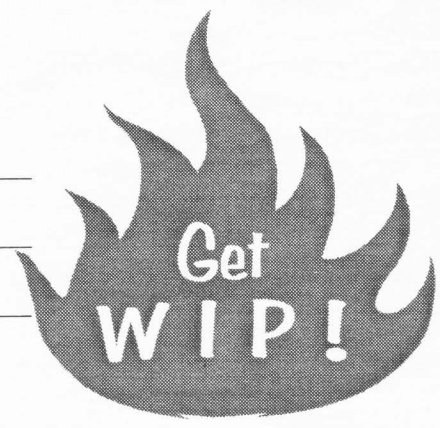

MARCH 2003

The Bullying Bosses of Humanity

...dictating their corrupt, belligerent political and economic "vision" to the entire planet...

Source: Dennis Rahkonen's article 'Welcome to 1984: Bush's declaration of world domination" (www.YellowTimes.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
...Combined with domestic curtailment of Constitutional rights and liberties under USA PATRIOT Act excesses, what we're ominously seeing is the most authoritarian imposition on the largest number of people, both our own citizens and foreigners, since the Hitler heyday. D. Rahkonen						**1** **2002**: Bread & Roses announces its intention to move the soup kitchen to a new location in 2003
2 **1998**: NJ Supreme Court rules homosexuals may not be excluded as scoutmasters in the Boy Scouts	**3** **2002**: US Senate investigation reveals physical and sexual abuse in nursing homes is under-reported	**4** **2002**: 7 US soldiers killed in Afghanistan **2002**: Bush plans to impose 30% tariff on imported steel	**5** **1891**: Phoenix pays $200 per dead Indian **2002**: Locke places 2 year delay on ergonomics rules	**6** **2002**: Feds approve natural gas pipeline through Tumwater and Black River national Wildlife Refuge	**7** **1960**: Supreme Court lets NY to build dam on Tuscaroras lands **2002**: Greenspan claims recession over	**8** **1996**: Dow drops 171 after drop in unemployment announced **2001**: US House okays $1 trillion tax cut
9 **1989**: 1st time, senate denies nomination for a president's 1st cabinet: John Tower for sec. of defense	**10** **1910**: Slavery abolished in China **2002**: Cheney in Middle East to sell US overthrow of Hussein	**11** **2002**: Bush announces he will view governments as foes if they refuse to "help remove the terrorist parasites"	**12** **1831**: Georgia militia arrest missionaries/ teachers who are supporting Cherokees in legal fights w/ the state	**13** **2002**: President Bush calls Iraq's Saddam Hussein a menace and states "we're going to deal with him"	**14** **1999**: 1.8 million are incarcerated in US jails, 668 per 100,000 **2001**: State senate kills day-use fees at parks	**15** **2002**: Powell reaffirms US will uphold 24-year pledge not to use nuclear weapons on nonnuclear nations
16 **1968**: My Lai Massacre: between 300 and 500 old men, women, and children lined up in a ditch and shot	**17** **1948**: The Hell's Angels is formed when two smaller gangs join forming a larger gang with 25 members	**18** **1879**: White Earth Reserve boundary lines "modified" **2002**: Miller's manager Quinn is leaving	**19** **1784**: Congress decides against 1 big meeting w/ Indian reps **1959** Dalai Lama flees Tibet and the Chinese	**20** **1864**: 800 Navajo women, children, and old men begin the 300 mile march to Fort Sumner in NM	**21** **1999**: White House says it will send envoy to Yugoslavia to possibly prevent punitive airstrikes by NATO	**22** **1947**: Pres Truman issues Ex. Order 9835 calling for loyalty investigations of all federal employees
23 **1942**: Japanese-Americans of Pacific coastal areas are moved inland from their homes to internment camps	**24** **1965**: MLK, Jr and 25,000 marchers in Montgomery AL **1989**: Alaska: The Exxon Valdez crashes	**25** **1894**: Coxey's Army of unemployed vets starts out from Massillon, Ohio bound for Washington, DC	**26** **2002**: Federal judge upholds WA State's blanket primary **2002**: Locke signs school anti-bullying bill	**27** **2000**: Hanford officials say that radioactive waste could reach the Columbia River in as little as three years	**28** **1995**: 1 in 4 US children live in poverty **2002**: Arab leaders oppose US military action against Iraq	**29** **1824**: Society for Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents formed **2002**: Arafat is trapped by Israeli troops
30 **1893**: The "agreement" signed by dead/fictitious people and forced on the Kickapoo approved by Congress	**31** **1904**: British kill 100s of Tibetans in India **1968**: Johnson announces he will not run for reelection					

I still believe the only chance for the human race to survive is to give up such pleasures as war, racism and private profit. Pete Seeger

Concepts such as truth, justice and compassion cannot be dismissed as trite when these are often the only bulwarks which stand against ruthless power. Aung San Suu Kyi

Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association

Building Relationships in a Time of War

Sean Izzarone

The people of the world have turned aside their telescreens! War is not peace. Freedom is not slavery. Ignorance is not strength. The massive demonstrations held February 15 of this year in cities around the U.S. and, indeed, around the world, showed us once again that world citizens of conscience continue to stand and struggle against the unjust and immoral war plans of the Bush II administration. These events also demonstrated yet again, that although the U.S. government, with the full support of the corporate and media elites, is constantly pursuing war as the only option for...well, for ANYTHING, that there are people who continue to decide that they wish to pursue a different path. In fact, many of the people who have taken to the streets recently to lift up their voices have done so, not only in opposition to war in Iraq, but also in opposition to the continuation of U.S. military and economic domination worldwide. Exploring ways of interacting with other peoples other than with violence, subjugation, and war has been and will continue to be an important part of this movement towards more just human interactions both domestically and internationally. The Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association has been an important part of this humanizing process on both the local and international levels.

The twinning of U.S. and Central American sister cities was one more effort amongst many strategies employed to stop Reagan and Bush I's obsession with destroying social and political change movements in Central America.

On March 15, 2003, the Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association (TSTSCA) will host an exciting and informative event celebrating 15 years of solidarity between the peoples of Santo Tomas, Chontales, Nicaragua and Olympia, Washington. The celebration will be held at 7:00pm at the Capitol Theater in downtown Olympia, and will include great food, music, and dancing, as well as the long-awaited premier of local filmmaker Carol Burns' documentary *Conocer a Nuestra Gente* focusing on the relationship between our two communities. This is a great opportunity for those who don't know about TSTSCA to come and learn about the origins and development of this local solidarity organization, as well as a chance for those familiar with TSTSCA to come and celebrate 15 years of working together with our sister city of Santo Tomas to help promote dignity and self-determination for the Nicaraguan peoples. A $5-$10 sliding scale donation is suggested, and all proceeds benefit sustainable development projects in Santo Tomas, Nicaragua.

TSTSCA was conceived in 1988, during a time of war, by an eclectic group of people in the Olympia area who shared the perspective that U.S. foreign policy, as played out in Central America (and the world), was dead wrong. The war taking place during this time was, of course, the U.S. funded and orchestrated Contra War, a state-sponsored campaign of international terrorism against the people of Nicaragua which spanned almost the entire decade of the Eighties. In fact, this proxy war was such a case of naked aggression that in 1987 the U.S. was found guilty of committing terrorist acts against Nicaragua by the World Court, and ordered to pay reparations in excess of $17 billion. This sentence was promptly ignored by the Reagan/Bush I regime (and has still never been paid). Of course, this was not the first time that the U.S. involved itself militarily in Latin America. Rather, it was the continuation of a policy of domination that has continued unabated even until the present-day, a policy rooted in the racist and nationalist ideology of Manifest Destiny. In Nicaragua alone, the U.S. has "intervened" militarily no fewer than nine times since 1890, with some of these campaigns becoming full-scale wars and/or occupations lasting many years.

As the U.S. government continued to terrorize the people of Nicaragua with the war and a devastating economic blockade (sound familiar?), TSTSCA became part of a decentralized national movement to "sister" with cities in war-zones as a way to superimpose real live faces on the distant reality of war as a way to "bring the horror of war home" to the U.S. The twinning of U.S. and Central American sister cities was one more effort amongst many strategies employed to stop Reagan and Bush I's obsession with destroying social and political change movements in Central America. The U.S., through its support of military regimes in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as well as of the counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua, shares culpability for the deaths of more than 400,000 Central Americans during these wars lasting from the 1970's through 1996. The tactic of "draining the sea to kill the fish" was used as a justification of the slaughter of civilians in the attempts to annihilate the movements trying to overthrow the despotic governments that were in collusion with the U.S. Members of TSTSCA were, and still are, outspoken critics of these policies.

For my part, I became active in TSTSCA two years ago. I was fortunate enough to be a member of the spring 2001 Student Delegation to Santo Tomas, through a study abroad program at The Evergreen State College. I lived with a *Tomasino* family for four months that year, and studied Nicaraguan history, politics, art, literature, as well as Spanish, but most of all I studied life. I don't think I was prepared for the intensity of hearing people's stories firsthand. Through their life stories, I learned about the horrors of war and about the central role my people and government have in

it. *Mi familia Nica* was hit hard by the war. In 1979, one month before the triumph of the Revolution, the first husband of *mi mama*, who was also the father of three of her children, was killed in combat against Somoza's National Guard. During the Contra War of the 1980's, she lost three of her four brothers to the U.S.-backed assassins' bullets. She herself was deeply involved in the struggle, and was the only survivor of her military unit. Her family lost all of their land and animals during the wars and the subsequent political reprisals meted out after the Sandinista electoral defeat in 1990. It was not easy to look into the faces of these people who I came to love so dearly, and to know that such pain came from the same place I do, but accepting that responsibility was another step in becoming more fully human. To learn so much from the pain of others can be somewhat disconcerting, but to not learn from it is nothing short of insulting and dehumanizing.

Unfortunately, the story of the hardships endured by *mi familia Nica* is one that is not uncommon in this country that has been so devastated by these vicious conflicts, and, indeed, these horror stories are repeated in war-zones worldwide daily. Presently, the current neoliberal economic "development" model imposed by international lending institutions like the IMF and World Bank is serving to further subjugate and impoverish the valiant peoples of this shattered nation (and of many others as well). This is the new front in the wars being fought to consolidate U.S. hegemony, and it works well in tandem with ForeverWar (War on Terror). As long as ForeverWar is being prosecuted, the job of making dissent to economic policies visible becomes that much more difficult, not to mention dangerous for all involved. But as the current regime in Washington marches us towards yet another war, to be followed by yet another, and another, and so-on, if left unopposed, we need to "bring these wars home" in as many ways as possible, so that the human faces, the life stories of those that suffer unjustly, are not another casualty of war. This means not only the wars fought with bullets and bombs, but also the wars fought with suffocating economic policies and political vendettas. Perhaps we can also begin to examine other ways in which we can choose to act in solidarity with the oppressed peoples of the world. What will that look like in the current political climate? I'm not really sure, comrades, but I do know this: War is definitely not peace.

For event tickets or more information on TSTSCA, please call 943-8642.

Interview with Carol Burns
Know Our People / Conocer a Nuestra Gente

by Jean Eberhardt

I've been involved in the documentation of this relationship from the very beginning. I've known as much about it as anyone who hasn't actually been there. When you [Jean] were raising money for that construction brigade, I produced a program shot at the home of Jo Curtz in 1987. It was one of the first of the series of Fellowship of Reconciliation Programs for TCTV, before we had a studio. That tape was a bulky old format, and I don't believe it survived. There was an amazing story to be told, and I wanted to help tell it. I couldn't give you a date for when this project began. My role was to review a lot of tape that had mainly been taken by other people going back to '86 and '88 in Nicaragua, and edit it down to about an hour. Some of the documentary is from footage I took from different events in Olympia and some is from slide transfers. Stephen Bray shot some video on two trips to Nicaragua. I think I searched through over a hundred hours of raw footage. It was difficult to sift through all of that material that came from a lot of people! How many hours did it take? Countless! I couldn't begin to give you a number of hours.

You've asked me how I should be credited for this. Producer? Director? No. Strictly speaking, I was the editor. That role is frequently undervalued, a role in which women made their first breakthrough in one of those obscure Academy Award categories. Naturally! For me, documentary film-making begins with my own experience of seeing and learning. One of my first important films was "As Long as the Rivers Run" about the local fishing rights struggle. I was there. I watched it happen, and then I helped tell the story. But more often, I have collaborated with other people who have gathered material. The role I play is that of editor. I did that with "PeaceTrees Vietnam," using other peoples' "home video" footage combined with interviews with participants of the delegation which went to Vietnam. I worked on that with Chris Stegman and the "PeaceTrees Vietnam" organization. Editing is a skill that comes from experience, a little like other kinds of craftsmanship, knowing how to take raw materials and build something.

I was one of the people who helped get a public access channel in Thurston County. I began working on this in 1981 and was employed at TCTV from 1986 to 1994. It was there that I saw Bob Basinich, an Evergreen student at the time, wrestle with the incredible footage he had taken while on the Olympia to Nicaragua Construction Brigade in 1988. Bob had a strong sense of how to frame his shots and worked really well with audio and visual images, but was hampered by a lack of editing experience and fluency in Spanish. He made considerable progress, but wasn't able to finish the film.

When your first delegation from Santo Tomás came here in 1990, I filmed the Fellowship Of Reconciliation interview with Padre Ignacio González, Virgilio Bravo, and Juana Ruíz. I couldn't work it into this documentary. I do use Bob Basanich's footage

(continued page 11)

Nuns Disable Nuclear Missile Silo

Holly Gwinn Graham

Three Dominican sisters, Carol Gilbert, 55, Jackie Hudson, 68, and Ardeth Platte, 66, are in jail in Colorado standing firm in the name of peace, justice and a nuclear-free future on earth and in space. On October 6th, 2002, they cut through three fences guarding a nuclear missile silo near Greeley, Colorado, engaging in civil resistance against U.S. policy promoting world domination from space by intimidation, nuclear technology, and first-strike nuclear arsenals.

Calling themselves *Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares II*, wearing white mop-up suits identifying them as the "Citizen's Weapons Inspection Team", the nuns took hammers and banged on the Minuteman III silo lid and its tracks until it could not be opened. They also poured their own blood on silo walls and on the rails along which the silo lid is moved to expose the missile. They raided the silo on Oct. 6 to commemorate the first anniversary of the illegal bombing and invasion of Afghanistan by the United States.

"Once we were inside, we took down three big sections of the wire fence and then pushed the fence over from inside outwards to expose it," Carol Gilbert has said. "We were saying to the public, 'This is an open site, the crime exists here, the crime must end. This is a violation of international law, it is a violation of treaties.'" After the disabling action, they prayed, "Oh God, teach us to be peacemakers in a hostile world." They sang, "Sacred the land, sacred the water, sacred the sky, holy and true. Sacred all life, sacred each other. All reflect God who is good." After all this, they were surrounded by soldiers with machine guns and arrested.

There are 49 Minuteman III sites in northeastern Colorado; 84 in southwestern Nebraska; and 17 in southeastern Wyoming. These military installations contain some of the most sensitive and sophisticated weaponry in the country, and they are considered a critical part of "national defense".

The nuns are charged with obstruction of the national defense of the United States and injuring the property of the United States. The trial itself is set for March 31 – April 4, 2003. On February 21, the three were scheduled to appear in U.S. District Court in Denver for pretrial hearings on charges that could send them to prison for 30 years in connection with the Weld County raid. They also face fines of up to $250,000.

Jackie Hudson, a familiar face to activists in Olympia, has for the past 10 years helped run Ground Zero Center for Non-Violent Action to resist the fleet of nuclear Trident submarines housed in Bangor, Washington. Jackie has said a maximum sentence would be a "life sentence" for her. "I won't be living to 98," said the 68-year-old Hudson.

Jackie, Carol and Ardeth, all from the Baltimore Jonah House Community shared by the Berrigan families and others, say they have a duty to protest the buildup of military weapons of first-strike capability. They claim international law prohibits any country, including the U.S., from having "first-strike, high-alert weapons of mass destruction," including the Minuteman III.

As a first strike high alert weapon, the Minuteman III is part of an active and massive nuclear first strike threat to all life on this planet. The 300-kiloton Minuteman III was created to vaporize every living being within 50 square miles. Outside that area, extending over hundreds of square miles, the blast, heat, firestorms, neutron and gamma rays would kill, severely wound, and poison millions of people both immediately and into future generations, destroying buildings and facilities, causing widespread, long term and severe damage to the environment.

In their own statements, the nuns have laid out their case for their latest act of civil disobedience..."As Roman Catholic sisters we feel an urgency to break our complicity and sound an alarm to the madness of these times. We must abide by God's law, which challenges the U.S. government on both national and international levels. We in the U.S. are losing our humanity. We pray that this action may bring us back to our human hearts.

"This Plowshares action on the anniversary of the US bombing of Afghanistan is a passionate cry to rein in a nation gone mad – a nation which prefers dictating to diplomacy – an empire reaching out to control earth and space. We pray that as citizens we will be awakened and demand a sane/human approach to life in today's world. We must not fight terrorism with terrorism.

"Our nation's governing bodies have become lawless and guilty of crimes against humanity, crimes against peace, war crimes. They mimic the terrorists by killing indiscriminately, threatening to change regimes and assassinate leaders, refusing to bring evildoers to a court of law. We act to bring light into this darkness."

Ardeth, Carol and Jackie began their reasonable, non-violent and symbolic inspection and nuclear disarmament process in compliance with U.S. and international law. The Nuremberg defense protects them in this situation, the nuns said. They claim the international war crimes tribunal at Nuremberg recognized that an individual has an obligation under international law to violate domestic law to prevent his/her country's continuing crimes against humanity.

"What we're doing is participating in acts of resistance," Hudson said. "We are resisting our government's travel on a road to crime. We are trying to stop the criminal activity of the United States."

They claim the international war crimes tribunal at Nuremberg recognized that an individual has an obligation under international law to violate domestic law to prevent his/her country's continuing crimes against humanity.

Citizens for Peace In Space
Box 915 Colorado Springs, CO 80901

I stand in solidarity with Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares II calling for nuclear disarmament and an end to war making on behalf of present and future generations of children and Mother Earth herself.

I understand that my name may be used in a public way or in print or in a statement of solidarity in the court proceedings.

_____
signature

_____
print name

_____
date

Citizens for Peace In Space

If you would like to express your solidarity with these sisters, sign and send the following statement with your address in full to ***Citizens for Peace In Space**, Box 915 Colorado Springs, CO 80901:*

I stand in solidarity with *Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares II* calling for nuclear disarmament and an end to war making on behalf of present and future generations of children and Mother Earth herself.

I understand that my name may be used in a public way or in print or in a statement of solidarity in the court proceedings.

Donations towards their defense are also welcome at that address. Make checks payable to Citizens for Peace in Space.

If you would like to write to the sisters, their address is Clear Creek County Jail, Box 518, Georgetown, CO 80444. Please use the title OP after each name. Jackie, Carol and Ardeth are sharing a windowless cell built for 6 with 14 to 17 other women. They are in very good spirits, continuing the work of peace and service inside the prison walls, and they would love to hear from you.

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What's So Funny About Peace (treaties), Love and Understanding?

Ron Jacobs

In recent weeks, the war of words between the U.S. and northern Korea has ratcheted upwards. Northern Korea has kicked out inspectors for the international nuclear watchdog agency IAEA, threatened war if the UN security council places sanctions on the country, and withdrawn from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. In the meantime, the United States has moved more Weapons of mass destruction, troops, aircraft, and sailors into the region, contemplated a pre-emptive attack on the country, and pushed for sanctions against northern Korea. Japan and southern Korea are doing what they can to prevent events from getting out of hand between the two belligerents by encouraging conversations, making positive overtures to northern Korea's government, and telling the Bush administration to shut up. So far, this strategy has worked. One wonders, though, for how long.

In fact, as I write this, the papers are running stories about North Korea's threatened pullout from the 1953 armistice agreement signed by the U.S. and North Korean military commands that ended the shooting war fifty years ago. Their reason for doing this is the continued buildup of US forces in region. They fear a surprise attack and understandably want to be prepared. In the statement released by Pyongyang, the government press agency noted the continued violations by the United States of the armistice agreement's limitations on troop strength and types of weapons. The United States, in its turn, considers Pyongyang's recent nuclear moves as violations of various international treaties it had previously signed.

Both governments are probably correct in these appraisals of their opponent's actions and motives. The people of the region, meanwhile, are hoping that the tension can be resolved without war, as happened in the past, most recently in 1994. This hope is shared by all of the world, especially the recently elected government of southern Korea, the governments of China and Russia, and the government of Japan. Most of these capitals are involved in efforts to de-escalate the tensions. It remains to be seen whether or not they will be successful.

So, why doesn't the United States want a peace treaty with North Korea? Because any peace agreement would require that the United States remove all of its forces and weapons.

I have often wondered (like any thinking individual), why isn't there a peace treaty? Although some US government documents state that it is North Korea who does not want such a treaty, history tells us otherwise. It is Washington that does not want a peace agreement. Washington and its client regime sabotaged the political conference in 1954 that was to have been a forerunner to a peace conference and Washington has ignored most every other opportunity for such a conference since then. This is despite Pyongyang's almost constant calls for this conference. The only exception to the US lack of interest in negotiating a permanent settlement that I can find occurred in 1994 when, after another near-war, the Clinton administration began talks that resulted in agreements that were designed to end Pyongyang's nuclear weapons project and help that country overcome a drought-induced famine. Since Dubya took over in 2000, however, the relations between the two capitols has slipped to its worst state since 1968, when North Korea captured the U.S. Navy spy-ship, The Pueblo.

If one investigates the history books, s/he'll discover that the U.S. foreign policy in the 1950s had one guiding principle: stop communism. The architects of this policy defined communism as any movement that threatened U.S. designs for empire. Oftentimes, this meant stopping democratic movements that opposed European colonialism and American support for that colonialism. This designation of national liberation movements as communist was self-fulfilling. Why? Primarily because the communist elements in these movements were the most committed and ended up making the most sense to the populations in the affected countries after less militant elements were co-opted or killed by colonial armies and U.S. intelligence operations.

Since the containment of communist regimes was the modus operandi of U.S. foreign policy during the period, the United States considered it absolutely necessary that the two largest communist nations -- the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China -- were contained militarily and economically. Maintaining a military presence in Korea was essential to this plan, and any peace treaty would have required the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Korean peninsula. Hence, a peace treaty was the last thing the United States wanted. The best solution for Washington would have been a total defeat and occupation of the northern half of Korea, but the Korean conflict of 1950 - 1953 had proven that the political and human cost of such an endeavor was more than the American population was willing to pay. So, the next best strategy was the situation that has existed on the Korean peninsula since June 1953. No war, but no peace.

Although the cold war has been over for more than a decade, the same strategy of containment exists in that region of the world. China, now communist in name only, is still the greatest long-term military threat to U.S. hegemony in the eyes of the Pentagon and Defense Department. If one looks at where recent U.S. military bases have been built, s/he will note that, when added to existing U.S. military presence in Asia, these bases form an almost complete circle around the Chinese nation. This is not an accident.

Of course, the Pentagon does not want a war with China. These days it prefers smaller battles that it has a good chance of winning-Iraq, Afghanistan, and perhaps Colombia-but not with an equal combatant like China. In addition, China has no desire for war. In today's world, this would probably only occur if the argument over Taiwan became a military one, although occurrences like the spy plane incident of 2001 have sparked wars between other nations before. There are those in the U.S. establishment, however, who would relish seeing their fantasy of one Korea under the rule of the United States army. One imagines that they are secretly hoping for some kind of incident that could be used as a rationale for attacking Pyongyang's army. It is these ultra-right elements that seem to have the ear of Dubya these days. One can assume that it is these men and women who are encouraging the bellicose statements towards Korea as they simultaneously push our nation towards a war with Iraq.

So, why doesn't the United States want a peace treaty with North Korea? Why are they willing to risk another bloody war with that country's military? The reason is simple: because any peace agreement would require that the United States remove all of its forces, weapons, including its weapons of mass destruction (which include nuclear weapons) from the southern half of the country. This action would limit Washington's ability to bully other governments in the region. In addition, it would end one more rationalization Washington likes to use for its marriage to the defense industry and the accompanying transfer of public funds to that industry in the name of what passes for national security in the warfare state. It seems to me that if Washington were truly interested in national security, it would want peace with Pyongyang, not war. In that case, a peace treaty with Pyongyang is a no-brainer.

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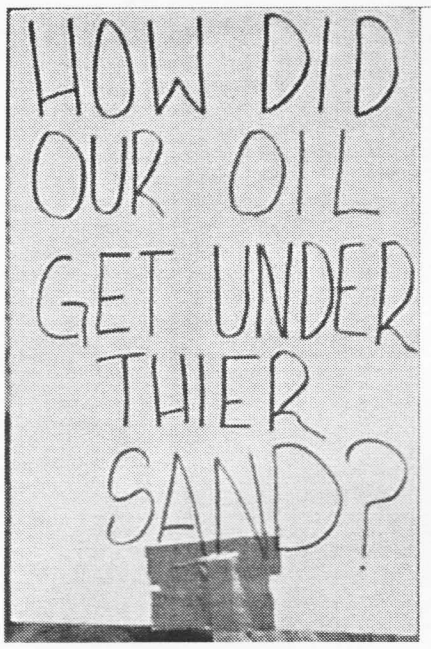

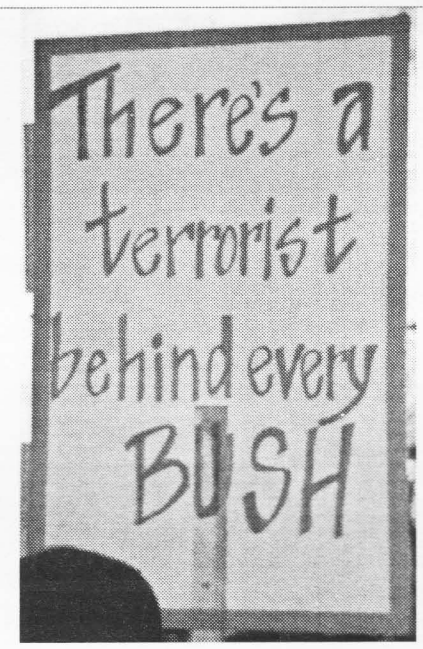

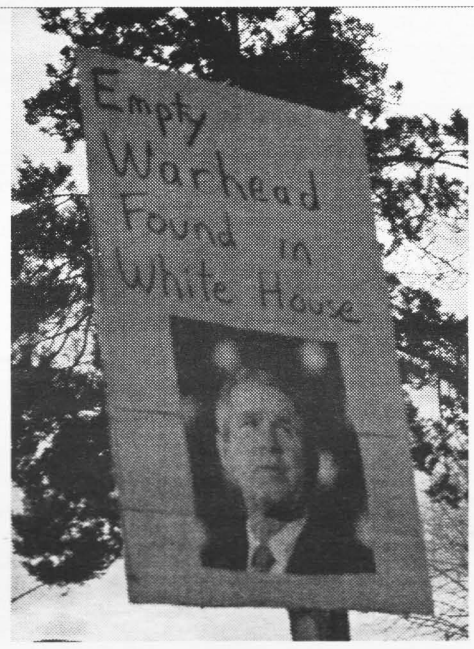

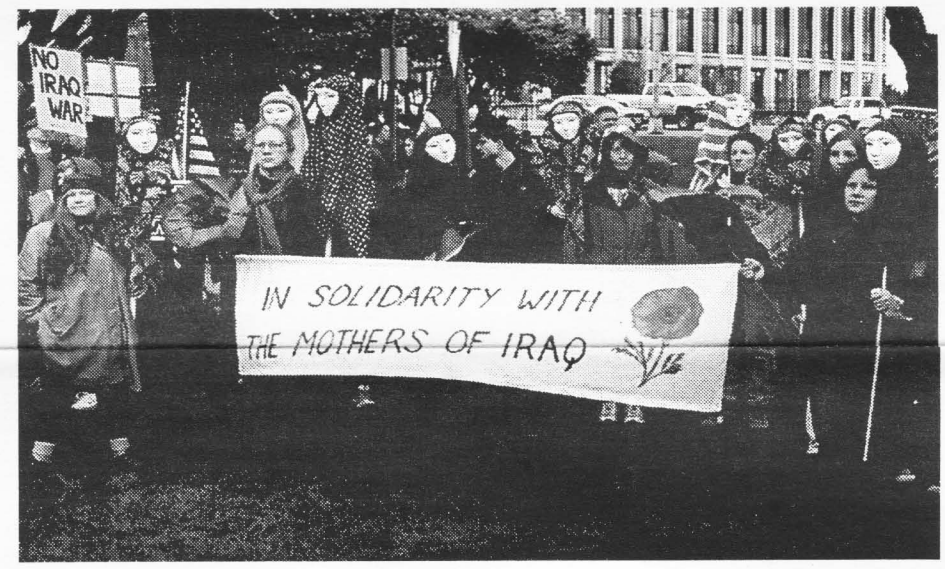

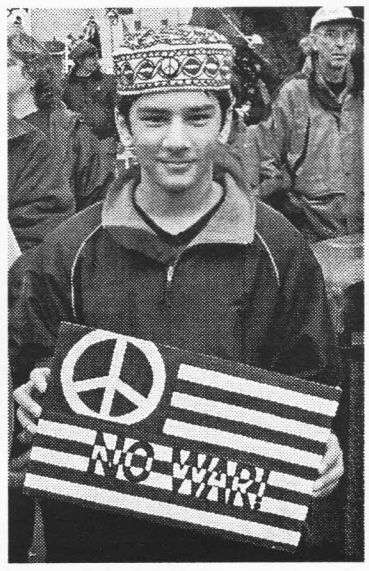

Photo's by Douglas Hiatt & Kayden

Palestinians Facing Hunger And House Demolition Demonstrate With Internationals Against War On Iraq

Rachel Corrie

Names have been omitted from this article in order to protect the safety of Palestinians involved and the ability of the internationals to continue to do human rights work in the occupied Palestinian territories. The use of full names and biographical information may be available on an individual basis for use in local press.

Internationals and Palestinians Demonstrate in Rafah, Gaza

Saturday, February 15, 2003. At 11 am on Saturday the 15th of February 100-150 Palestinians were joined in Rafah by nine internationals in a march for peace for the people of Iraq, in protest of US government policies towards the people of Iraq and Palestine, and in support of the political rights of protesters in New York City. This demonstration occurred in conjunction with protests around the world.

Nobody here likes Saddam Hussein. We make protest for Iraq because we know what this is like and we do not want this for the people of Iraq.

Messages from Communities Around the Globe

Palestinians and international friends from the United States, the UK, and the Netherlands marched along Sea Street, Sharia al Baha, one of the central streets in Rafah Camp. As they approached the center of town they began to shout through bullhorns in Arabic "Hurriyah la Falesteen! Hurriyah la al Iraq! Hurriyah la Rafah! Hurriyah la Baghdad!" and in English "Freedom for Palestine! Freedom for Iraq! Freedom for Rafah! Freedom for Baghdad!"

Internationals carried hand-written signs: "Amsterdam says no to War on Iraq and Rafah! Olympia USA says no war on Rafah and Iraq! City of Chicago Stop War on Iraq! South London for Peace in the Middle East. Malvern Against the War. Dingle for Peace in the Middle East." Palestinians carried signs saying "Stop Repression in New York", a nod to the illegalization of marches scheduled for New York City today. Some internationals reported that friends at home marched with identical signs mentioning the situation in Rafah.

"Freedom for Palestine. Freedom for Iraq."

At about 11:10 this crowd converged in Al Awda square with a group of children from the Children's Parliament, youth from the Fateh youth organization, as well as adults from Fateh and various community organizations.

Children joined in chanting "Hurriyah la Falesteen wa Hurriyah la al Iraq" and passed forward crayoned United States flags to the center of the demonstration. A US national burned these flags, while the Children waved peace signs and continued to chant. A few of the children burned crayoned Israeli flags.

As rain began to pour on the streets of Rafah at about 11:30, Palestinians and internationals walked through traffic. The bullhorns went off, and the chanting dissipated to child voices and adult voices yelling "Hurriyah la Falesteen! Hurriyah la Falasteen! Hurriyah la Falesteen!" Freedom for Palestine. Freedom for Palestine. Freedom for Palestine.

The situation in Rafah

Rafah is a city and refugee camp of about 140,000 people in the southern Gaza strip immediately adjacent to the Egyptian border. Currently, the Israeli Military (IDF), is constructing a wall approximately ten meters high paralleling the border.

The Rafah Popular Refugee Committee estimates that over 600 houses have been destroyed on the Rafah side of this wall. 79 houses were destroyed in Rafah in January alone, according to a United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) press release Tuesday. UNRWA Commissioner General Peter Hansen urged the international community not to ignore the situation in the West Bank and Gaza as focus intensifies on Iraq.

Internationals engaged in human rights work in Rafah report daily demolitions of civilian homes and "ceaseless shelling" from tanks stationed along the outskirts of Rafah. Palestinians living on the "front line"—those houses immediately facing the now-open area where other homes once stood" refer to the shelling and larger bomb blasts as "music".

An international from the United States pointed out that the children involved in this demonstration rarely have direct contact with the outside world. "They have never seen Israelis except inside of tanks and sniper towers".

What does this war mean for Rafah?

When asked what war in Iraq means for people in Rafah, one of the Palestinian organizers of the demonstration remembered his experiences as a child during the first Gulf War:

"During 1991, in the first Gulf War Israel had bunkers and Israelis had gas masks. We had no masks. Israel is a technological country and knows how to deal with these things. But in the camps, no one cares what happens to us in the camps."

He described the uncertainty of wondering whether Iraqi missiles aimed at Israel would hit Gaza and the difficulty of living under twenty-four hour curfew imposed by the IOF.

"We made some things, the best we could. We shut all the doors and nailed nylon over the windows. We knocked a hole in our wall to move between rooms."

UNRWA alludes to further consequences of an Iraq war for Palestinians. According to Tuesday's press release, UNRWA's emergency programmes' including the feeding of 1.1 million people will run out of resources and come to an end in mid March unless donations are received immediately.

As of Tuesday, no funds had been received by UNRWA in response to a December call for US $ 94 million in emergency aid. UNRWA mentions Rafah in particular as an area of need -- Supplies of food, tents and cash to those made homeless cannot continue unless donations are forthcoming."

Hansen makes the international community's inaction and the potential for war:

"The paradox is that our emergency funding for the year may be threatened because donors are holding back to see what is needed in Iraq."

When asked what the IDF might do in Gaza in the event of an Iraq war, one Palestinian from Rafah replied "We cannot know what they will do. We just wait."

No one made mention of the potential for mass famine.

"We know what this is like and we do not want this for the people of Iraq"

A shopkeeper in the vicinity of the demonstration described the sentiment of many in Rafah that US aggression towards Iraq in the midst of continuous support for Israel demonstrates abject disregard for the value of Palestinian lives. He mentioned the IDF's possession of weapons of mass destruction and killing of Palestinian civilians:

"This is something we cannot understand. We know the government is not the people, but why America wants to attack Iraq so much? Just the oil? They have all the oil. The Middle East is already as a base for American army everywhere. Why do they want Iraq? What is the difference between Iraq and Israel? Why do they want these things for us?"

Another Palestinian organizer expressed doubt that the demonstration in Rafah would matter in the international community. "There were demonstrations before but the media doesn't come here from Gaza. No one will see our demonstration." Others in Rafah echo this sense of invisibility:

"We make protest here for Iraq, but we need to think about ourselves. Things are bad enough here. Nobody here likes Saddam Hussein. We make protest for Iraq because we know what this is like and we do not want this for the people of Iraq. Saddam Hussein is a king. He will not die. He will not be hungry. He will not suffer. We make a protest for Iraq. Because we have experienced this. Who makes protest for us?"

The full texts of UNRWA press briefings are available at www.unrwa.org

Thanks for *Democracy NOW!*

by Sandia Slaby

The residents of Thurston County can thank the following individual community members, businesses, and groups who could, and did collectively provide the financial support that was necessary to actualize the daily broadcasting of Pacifica Radio's highly respected program of news and analysis, "Democracy NOW! - The War and Peace Report", on Thurston County TV (TCTV), channels 22 & 29. THANK YOU:

Brian Buseby, Elizabeth Triffitt, Peter Bohmer, Joe Nilsson, Thornton Alberg, Chris Stearns, R. Jay Hershey, Cartridge Care, Inc., AFSCME-Local 443, The Green Party of the South Puget Sound, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association, Olympia Food Co-op, and the group that spearheaded this effort, KAOS Listeners for Democracy Now (KLDN).

On January 6, 2003 TCTV began broadcasting Pacifica's "Democracy NOW!"'s daily program at 4pm Monday-Friday. For more than a year up until that time TCTV had been airing bi-weekly a 2-hour compilation of the previous week's shows. Media Island International (www.mediaisland.org) continues to be the sponsor of these broadcasts, with organizational support from KLDN. The Pacifica program, (www.democracynow.org) hosted by Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzales, is uniquely committed to bringing marginalized voices and under-reported stories to the public. It has distinguished itself repeatedly with its unflinching coverage of domestic and international affairs. Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzales both demonstrate an unwavering commitment to media democracy. The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights speaks of, among other things, "...the freedom from prohibiting the free exercise of...or abridging the freedom of...the press..." RECOGNIZING, EXERCISING and PROTECTING these simple rights seems to be central to maintaining any semblance of a democracy; and certainly a media democracy! However, it is not the norm to get diverse, honest, unabridged coverage of public affairs from most mainstream corporate-owned media sources today. In this current climate of eroding civil liberties, decreasing localism in media generally, and increasing media conglomeration possibilities resulting from the current Federal Communications Commission's Ownership Rules review (www.reclaimthemedia.org), it is ever so important to not take for granted the valuable media resources we do have right here in Thurston County.

So, if TCTV (www.tctv.net), KAOS Radio 89.3 FM (http://www.kaosradio.org) (who, of course, was the first to bring "Democracy NOW! - The Exception to the Rulers" to Washington state beginning in 1995), Media Island (www.mediaisland.org), or this very newspaper you are reading - WIP (www.wip.org) are resources that you value, appreciate, and/or want to continue to be in your life/community, consider communicating that to them. Express your sentiments in whatever manner works for you, but do it, and don't put it off. Feedback is SO valuable in letting others know how their choices affect you. Otherwise, how do they know if their efforts are worthwhile. And it's easy to take things for granted until they slip away or are stolen, and then...!?!?!? Expressing ourselves in this regard not only makes for a stronger media democracy, but of course, a stronger social democracy! As they say, corny or not - 'Use 'em or lose 'em' - all of those First Amendment Rights, I mean.

It is obvious that a lot of people are quite hungry for information that is being kept from them by corporate media; for information that would help them make sense of the world around them. Tell a few others outside your normal circles about some of these resources; help them find it, and watch the world change!

Along the Color Line

G.W. Bush: Affirmative Action Baby

Manning Marable

Several days before last month's national holiday celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the Bush administration came out forcefully against affirmative action policies initiated at the University of Michigan, which soon, will be under Supreme Court review. To his credit, Secretary of State Colin Powell informed the media that he continued to express "support for the policies used by the University of Michigan."

Condoleeza Rice, Bush's National Security Adviser, unfortunately lacks Powell's integrity. She at first claimed that she agreed with her boss's ridiculous charge that Michigan's policy of giving preferences to black and Latino applicants who came from racially oppressed communities is a "quota system." Then in a series of contradictory explanations Rice admitted that her career had indeed "benefited from affirmative action." She also acknowledged that race could be "a factor in university admissions," but not to the extent used in the University of Michigan's admissions policies.

Compounding Bush's decision to oppose affirmative action was his renomination of Charles W. Pickering, Sr., of Mississippi, to the federal appellate court. Pickering's conservative history on racial issues, such as his efforts as a judge to reduce the sentence of a man convicted of burning a cross outside the home of an interracial couple, guarantee strong opposition to his ratification in the Senate. Given the Republican Party's embarrassment in the wake of Senator Trent Lott's resignation late last year, why would Bush seem to go out of his way to alienate the African-American electorate? New York Senator Charles Schumer spoke for many when he informed the press, "I'm still scratching my head in amazement that they actually (re)nominated him."

The controversies over both affirmative action and Pickering's renomination led many columnists to question the administration's commitment to civil rights. One of the most thoughtful commentaries to appear was by author Roland S. Martin, which appeared in USA Today on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Posing the question, how would King have viewed Bush's rejection of affirmative action, Martin observed: "President Bush opposes the University of Michigan's admissions program because he views it as a quota system." "Yet he is proud to call himself a Yale graduate, even though he benefited from a quota system because of his family's history at the Ivy League school. That's right. Our own president is an affirmative action baby."

Growing up, little G.W. was at best a mediocre student. According to New York Times columnist Nicholas D. Kristof, Bush was denied admission to St. John's, an elite private academy in Houston. He managed to get into Andover Academy, an elite prep school in the Northeast only because "it wanted Texans to diversify its student body, which was heavily from the Northeast. In addition, using just the kind of point system that Mr. Bush now derides as quotas, Andover gave George three extra points on a 20-point scale."

I think two points are crucial here. First, Bush's "legacy" preference he received is "a higher percentage than a Michigan applicant gets for being black." Second, Bush's admission knocked out of Andover another (probably white male) student who had better grades, and was better qualified than he was.

The same pattern of mediocrity followed Bush into college. He never made the honor roll at Andover during his years in high school. His SAT cumulative scores in verbal and math were about 150 points below the median scores of students admitted in his class at Yale. Martin asks the logical question, "Maybe Bush should ask himself whether someone with better grades was denied a chance to get into Yale" because he was selected. "If so, would he consider switching places with him or her today?"

If Martin Luther King, Jr. was with us today, he would probably describe the Bush administration's racial strategy as "symbols without substance." King would certainly applaud Bush's appointments of blacks in high level administrative positions, such as Powell and Rice. He would have commended the President's criticism of Lott's outrageously offensive statements, celebrating Strom Thurmond's 1948 presidential campaign on the Dixiecrat segregationist ticket. But King would deplore and condemn the administration's ugly pandering to racist, conservative extremists in our country by falsely describing "preferences" as "quotas."

King would perhaps cite a recent study published in Academe, the journal of the American Association of University Professors, that shows that minority students actually have less access to college today relative to white students than they did a quarter of a century ago. Affirmative action programs have expanded access to college for black and Latino students, the study confirms, but these gains have been "offset by policies that give an advantage to white applicants." These policies "include special consideration for the children of alumni and donors, prepaid-tuition plans, which benefit only those parents who can afford to save money for college, and the current movement among many public and end remedial programs.

As a result, there is a growing system of racial apartheid in American higher education, where African-American and Latino students in increasing numbers are concentrated in third-tier schools. The report notes that of the 30 non-historically black institutions that enrolled the largest number of black students, 23 grant only associate (two-year) degrees and only 3 are research universities. "By contrast," of the 30 colleges with the largest numbers of white students, 26 are research universities, and only two offer only two-year degrees. In effect, the educational gap between the races is widening. Southern universities today are more racially segregated and have lower percentages of black students than twenty years ago.

King might say today that a defense of affirmative action in higher education is not a defense of "quotas"; it is a defense of affirmative opportunity. It is a defense of greater educational fairness. As Roland Martin observed, most African-American students "weren't able to write on their applications that they were a 'legacy' because a different legacy - that of racism and Jim Crow - didn't allow their parents and grandparents to have the same educational opportunities as their white counterparts."

King would ask us, what kind of American society do we really want? A racially divided society, with growing educational, income, and health inequalities between racial groups? Or can we dream of a democratic society that takes affirmative action to reduce educational disparities that takes meaningful steps to create genuine diversity and opportunities for all?

Angry White Men

The Affirmative Action Argument

Ronald Henderson

While watching a segment of the Donahue Show on MSNBC entitled "Angry White Men: The Argument of Affirmative Action" with guest panelist Pat Buchanan, Rev. Al Sharpton, and comedian Art Mooney, I notice a familiar face. It was a Washington Correction Center corrections officer assigned to the Shelton facilities Intensive Management Unit (IMU). He was under the assumed name of Bob from Olympia WA. When questioned by Mr. Donahue as to why he was angry about affirmative action, he reported that when he was enlisted in the armed forces, he was passed over numerous times for rank position and promotion by under qualified African Americans.

I found it ironic that he did not mention he was a correction officer in Washington State, and at the prison he worked at, the percentage of African American officers is less than 2% of the people employed in the facility. You can count the minorities employed there on your hand. With the state prison system over 30% African American, I found it hard to believe why he would be angry. When 4% of the population in Washington is African American, how could his job be threatened with affirmative action?

There is a big brainwashing misconception running rampant in this country. Critics of affirmative action and race-based quota policies will argue that under-qualified people are being promoted and given more jobs than qualified people. That problem existed even before the race factor. The same divisive argument was used during the re-construction period, that freed slaves were given preferential positions and jobs of authority over whites when they were not qualified. This caused hatred and a backlash, creating the formation of the fraternity of the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Codes of 1865. Blacks were soon required to possess written evidence of employment for the coming year. Black laborers leaving their jobs before the contract expired would forfeit wages already earned, and as under slavery, would be subject to arrest by any white citizen. Blacks were forbidden to rent land in urban areas, had to contend with criminal code offenses such as insulting gestures or language, malicious mischief, and preaching the Gospel without a license.

Over the next half-century, institutionalized racism, segregation, and white supremacist doctrine would achieve its most formidable developments in the hands of scientists and intellectuals like Louis Agassiz of Harvard, scholars like John Burgess and William Deeming, both from Colombia, Walter Fleming Vanderbilt, the wealthy scion, James Ford Rhodes and Woodrow Wilson, Bryan Maun Wesleyam at Princeton. Like their lesser-known colleagues, these founding figures helped create the foundation for American natural science, political science, and history, and help transport scientific racism into the highest realms. They infected not only the most prestigious institutions of education and government with this formalist variant of racism, but they also cultivated and transmitted the formidable genius of hatred to their social inferiors.

These ideals and beliefs still are strong today. A person only has to look at the Bell Curve Report to see the long reach of its tentacles. The majority of beneficiaries of Affirmative Action, the non-whites, women, and the disabled, are highly qualified and dedicated individuals who otherwise would not have been given an opportunity. The argument is now in front of the Supreme Court: race-based admission into colleges. Whites say they are being discriminated against and denied enrollment into institutions because of race-based quotas. A lot of white Americans are angry with minorities, specifically blacks, saying, "Why should they have to pay for past mistakes?" And that "there should be no more race-based quotas and the playing field is balanced." My answer to that is a quote from the song "Crazy Bald Head" by reggae legend Bob Marley: "We build your penitentiaries. We build your schools. Brainwashing education, to make us the fools." If opponents of Affirmative Action are to be angry, why should it be at the less than 13% of the national population? Especially, when 1 out 3 black men are incarcerated by design. A person has to merely look at the statistics.

In the Justice Policy Institute (JPI) report "Cellblocks or Classrooms," it is estimated that 3 times as many African American men were added to the national prison system than were added to college during the last two decades. In 2000, there were at least 13 states where there were more African American men incarcerated than in college. In Wash-

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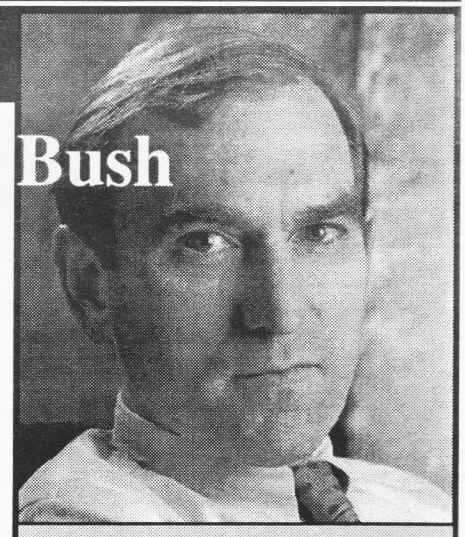
Know More's "Evil-doer" of the Month

Elliot Abrams: Special Assistant to President Bush



.. and Senior Director on the National Security Council for Southwest Asia, Near East and North African Affairs.

Nancy West

Our "evildoer" for this month is yet another Iran/contra cast member who was resurrected and rewarded by the present Bush regime with a powerful policy position. Elliott Abrams, appointed by President-select Bush to a high-level Mideast policy position with the National Security Council, is a convicted criminal.

At a press briefing White House reporter, Russell Mokhiber, asked Bush's Press Secretary, Ari Fleisher, about Abrams but Fleisher just didn't seem able to get a grasp of what he was being asked or maybe he was just stalling and hoping that Mokhiber would give up and go away. On December 9th of last year there was the following exchange between the two....

RM: *Ari, two questions. Why is the President appointing convicted criminals like Elliott Abrams to policy positions at the White House?*

AF: *Russell, you asked that question last week.*

RM: *I did not ask that question last week.*

AF: *You asked it about somebody else. I dispute the premise of your question...*

Tenacious Mokhiber tried again a week later on December 17th to get some answers.

RM: *Ari, last week I asked—why is the President appointing convicted criminals like Elliott Abrams to policy positions at the White House? You said that you disputed the premise of the question. What part of the question do you dispute?*

AF: *Did you call him a war criminal?*

RM: *No, I didn't. I called him a convicted criminal.*

AF: *That's right, you called Henry Kissinger, the Nobel Prize winner, a war criminal. You didn't call him (Abrams) a war criminal?*

RM: *I did not. I said, why is the President appointing convicted criminals like Elliott Abrams to policy positions at the White House?*

AF: *Russell, we can go round and round. I know if you were President, you would not have appointed Mr. Abrams. The President believes that Elliott Abrams is a superb choice for this position. He has tremendous faith and confidence in Elliott Abrams. And the President, I think, is going to be proven correct as Elliott Abrams has worked to improve democracies.*

If you are wondering why Ari is evading Russell's questions—just consider the following, which touches briefly on how Abrams "worked to improve democracies."

Abrams pled guilty to two counts of lying to the U.S. Congress regarding the Iran-Contra scandal. As Reagan's Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, he was involved in the support of military aid to the contra rebels who were fighting to overthrow the Sandinista government even though Congress had banned such support. In testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Intelligence Committee he lied when he informed Senator Bill Bradley that "we're not in the fund-raising business". In fact, Abrams had personally flown to London to arrange for a $10 million dollar donation for the contras from the Sultan of Brunei.

Abrams' lying is not limited to Congress; he is quite willing to lie to the public as well. There was an incident where a small plane hired by the U.S. government to carry weapons to the contras was shot down by the Nicaraguan government killing two of the pilots while a third parachuted out and was captured by the Sandinistas. Abrams told reporters no one connected to the U.S. government was involved with the flights because "that would be illegal".

In addition to lying about U.S. involvement in the funding of the contras, he also was adept at massacre denial. When asked about the slaughter of civilians by the U.S.-funded Salvadoran military, he denied that any such events had occurred. He was asked if the U.S. Embassy and the State Department had conducted an investigation and he pled memory loss. A massacre of hundreds of villagers by an elite U.S.-trained military unit in the Village of El Mozote was described by Abrams as 'commie propaganda'.

Could the aforementioned incidents from Mr. Abrams past be affecting Ari Fleisher's inability to give a straight answer to Mokhiber's questions? Does Ari really believe, as he has suggested, that "matter[s] of the past" have no bearing on the present? Well, if Ari won't admit that Elliott Abrams is a convicted criminal maybe he will 'fess up to other criminals working in this administration.

On January 6th Russell Mokhiber, taking another tack, again broaches the subject of criminals working in the White House.

RM: *Ari, other than Elliott Abrams, how many convicted criminals are on the White House staff?*

AF: *You tell me, Russell.*

RM: *Could you give a list of convicted criminals on the White House staff, other than Elliott Abrams?*

AF: *I'll go right to the convicted criminals division and ask them.*

FM: *Seriously, why isn't being convicted of a crime a disqualifier for being on the White House staff?*

AF: *Russell, this is an issue that you like to repeat every briefing—*

FM: *But you don't answer it, Ari.*

AF: *—I refer you to the repeat that I gave you the third time that you asked, which masked the second, which corresponded to the first.*

RM: *Why isn't it a disqualifier?*

(Ari moves on)

That Ari Fleisher really has a way with words, doesn't he?

Could it be that Bush Sr.'s lame duck pardon of Elliot Abrams absolved him of all of his sins as if he were "born again" setting him free to go and sin no more while creating U.S. foreign policy (havoc) in the Middle East. We can only hope.

Nancy West may be reached at KnowMore@thurston.com.

Biography in Brief

Born: January 24, 1948 in NYC

Education:

- **B.A. from Harvard in 1969**
- **Master's in International Relations from the London School of Economics in 1970**
- **J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1973.**

Professional positions:

- **Assistant Counsel to the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations in 1975**
- **Special Counsel to Senator Henry M. Jackson 1975-1976**
- **Special Counsel and then Chief of Staff to Sen Daniel P. Moynihan Jan 1977 to Jun 1979**
- **Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs January 1981**
- **Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Human-itarian Affairs 1981 to 1985**
- **Appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs in July 1985**
- **Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute from 1990 to 1996**
- **Member of US Commission on Int'l Religious Freedom**
- **Member of the Council on Foreign Relations**
- **Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Francisco Marroquin Foundation and of the Nicaraguan Resistance Educational Foundation**

Book: ***Faith and Fear: How Jews Can Survive in a Christian America***

Residence: lives in Virginia with his wife and three children

A massacre of hundreds of villagers by an elite U.S.-trained military unit in the Village of El Mozote was described by Abrams as 'commie propaganda'.

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You Are What You Eat

David Lavender

"You are what you eat." There is a lot to this saying, and it's pretty scary when you consider more than 270 million pounds of toxic waste ended up being dumped on U.S. farmland between 1990 and 1995. For example Bay Zinc manufactured over 2.8 million pounds of lead into fertilizer from 1990 to 1997. Lead and other heavy metals accumulate in fats, wrecking havoc on everything from the brain to the nervous system. Then there are Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) that are prevalant in most U.S. diets. This involves injecting foreign DNA into our foods for various reasons. One example is round-up ready soy, able to live through heavy spraying of Monsanto's best seller that no weeds can take. There also are strawberries that have fish DNA in them, this is to drop the berries freezing point and allow them to store longer for the ever increasing distance traveled by food in modern agriculture. This technology is new and uncertain, and highly controversial around the world. The European Union has banned GMO's from being imported, and so have many other ports around the world. Therefore the United States, the world's largest grower of GMO's, has flooded our market with these products. People in this country have become guinea pigs, only time will tell the long term effects on the populations health. Other problems include the patenting of GMO seeds, making it illegal for farmers to save their own seed and dependent on corporations. In fact a farmer in Canada had GMO wheat cross pollinate with his wheat, much to his dismay, and was successfully sued for having patented plants on his property without paying for them. So many moral, health, legal, and cultural issues are at stake with the continuation of this type of genetic manipulation.

So all you have to do is buy organic and you are O.K., right? Not necessarily, new federal organic standards are questionable at best. Industrial organic food can be close to major highways, like I-5, and cannot be guaranteed to be 100% organic. This is because as foods get processed, like soybeans into tofu, it is on such a big scale products mix together. Evidence of this is shown from incidents like Star link corn, which wasn't for human consumption, being sold to Taco Bell. More recently a couple hundred experimental genetically manipulated pigs that were supposed to be destroyed were sold on the market. Unfortunately we don't know where they ended up either, somehow they lost track of these hogs.

Problems include the patenting of GMO seeds, making it illegal for farmers to save their own seed and dependent on corporations.

Industrial food, organic or not, cannot compare to the quality of locally grown products. There are many farms in the area that grow in sustainable ways, use fair labor practices, and sell locally. Buying local produce means a drastic reduction in miles traveled from the farm to your mouth. A majority of the food in this country travels thousands of miles before reaching its final destination, using lots of petrochemicals to ship it around. The varieties grown are therefore grown for their ability to handle the stress of the transportation and still look presentable (chemicals are commonly added to prolong the "fresh" look as well). Conversely local varieties are grown for taste and nutrition, knowing the food will be eaten soon after harvest. Iceberg lettuce, which dominates mainstream markets, comes to mind here. Although Iceberg wilts far after other lettuce it falls noticeably short in taste and nutritional value. Only locally will you be able to get Deer Tongues, Esmerelda Bibb, Red Sails, Blushed Butter, and other delicious lettuce.

One of the most important aspects of local farms is that direct connection to your food. This is true accountability. Consumers can see the farm, how there food is grown how the animals are treated, and talk to the farmers about their practices. Certified Organic can't offer that, instead institutions are entrusted to set and enforce standards. The average person, especially with the new federal standards, is very removed from this whole process. Fortunately, as stated earlier, the south Puget Sound area has a strong farming community committed to producing high quality products. One way to get your food directly from local farms is to join s CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Becoming part of a CSA means that you make a commitment to purchase a box of vegetables throughout the grow-season. How many weeks, the variety of produce offered, and how much money it costs varies between CSA's. Typically the fist box is sometime in May and the last around October, some farms even offer extended seasons. Participating in a CSA is an excellent way to start eating what is in season, connecting us to the cycles of the earth and to our ancestors who ate like this since, well, forever. This is the time of the year us farmers are filling up open spots in CSA's, so the earlier you contact a local farm to join the better. I know seeds are being planted and beds prepared, so find a farmer and throw down your down payment to show your appreciation and commitment to keep local farms thriving.

A good place to find local CSA's is the Thuston County Farm Map, put out by the South Sound Food Shed. This map lists farms, what they sell, and how to contact them. Many farms sell their food in other ways beside CSA's, such as Farmers Markets and/or direct sales, and the farm map gives you all the pertinent information. The 2003 Farm Map is scheduled to come out in early April, look for it in the April edition of the Green Pages. Other locations where they will be are the Coops, the Olympia Library, and the Olympia Farmers Market. So take the initiative this year to support local farmers. Not only will you be eating healthier and better tasting food, but you will help strengthen the community.

(Affirmative Action, continued)

ington, between 1985 and 2000, states spending on corrections in Washington grew 138% while state spending on higher education grew only 13%. Between 1980 and 2002, nearly as many African American men were added to Washington's prisons system (2,200) as were added to Washington's higher education system (2,297).

This mass incarceration of a generation of people is by design. Those on the lower rung of the economic and social class ladder are more susceptible and attracted to crime in order to compete and survive in an industrial capitalistic society. The blame is solely on the corporate bureaucracy. African Americans own no Fortune 500 Companies; nor have they laid off thousands of productive laborers due to corporate mergers and downsizing; nor are African Americans moving their companies and factories to other countries to exploit laborers for lower wages and taxes reeducations; nor have they recruited over seas in India and Asia for thousands of hi-tech industry workers, because they are not even qualified workers in this country to fill those positions.

Affirmative Action has created a better diversity of race and gender in all the levels of government, corporations, and institutions in America, and Affirmative Action is still a necessary tool. Many institutions still benefit and profit from the racist slavery capital that built this country financially and academically. White Americans still receive privileges and preference from the stolen labor and lands of millions. Yes there are millions of white immigrants who worked hard and made sacrifices too, but minorities have done more so. Lies and deception have to be exposed and stopped. It is corporate America that is stealing jobs, promotions, and positions. Within a country with so much diversity, employment and enrollment for anyone who is qualified, capable, and dedicated should be obtainable for everyone regardless of race or gender.

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Aberdeen WA, 98520

(Interview, continued)

of Padre Ignacio González [a liberation theologist] because I wanted to show that there were Christians as well as Communists as well as Christian Commies involved in the movement to recreate Nicaragua in the 'eighties. From the second delegation, I taped Aurora Báez and Reyna Cabrera in 1995 in the home of [Methodist pastor] Richard Smith. That interview opens the documentary and provides its title, as Aurora says (in translation) "...Because there are people in another place that may be very different, with different systems of life, that want to come and share with us in our country. I hope that there are many people that want to know our people."

I continued to tape other presentations by visitors when they were here and was able to combine my own tapes with interviews and other material recorded in Nicaragua by Stephen Bray. I've looked at these people on tape again and again. They are all amazing. You know, you could turn the TV on and see charitable causes helping the unfortunate people of the world, but in this case, the inspiring thing with the TSTSCA story is the strength of our partners in Nicaragua. That's what I hope comes through is their voices; what they have to say is powerful. We know these people. Through the many years of the sister county relationship, we do know who they are and what they do with our support. We know that it has deep meaning for us [in Olympia] as well. The documentary doesn't come up to the present day as perhaps it should. I had to stop adding more footage and just satisfy myself with creating a history that doesn't take us all the way to 2003. If I had the stamina and will [to go to Santo Tomás], there could be more in the film about Nicaraguans in Nicaragua and what life is like for them. When I went through all that raw footage, I saw all the ways that people set out to tell the story. I have an incredible amount of admiration for you and all the people who've gone to Nicaragua and all the people in Nicaragua who've lived through all they've lived through. I saw my calling to edit a story; filter it down to an historical event, which took place over many years into something people could sit down and see. I'm glad to have helped make this happen.

free

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE

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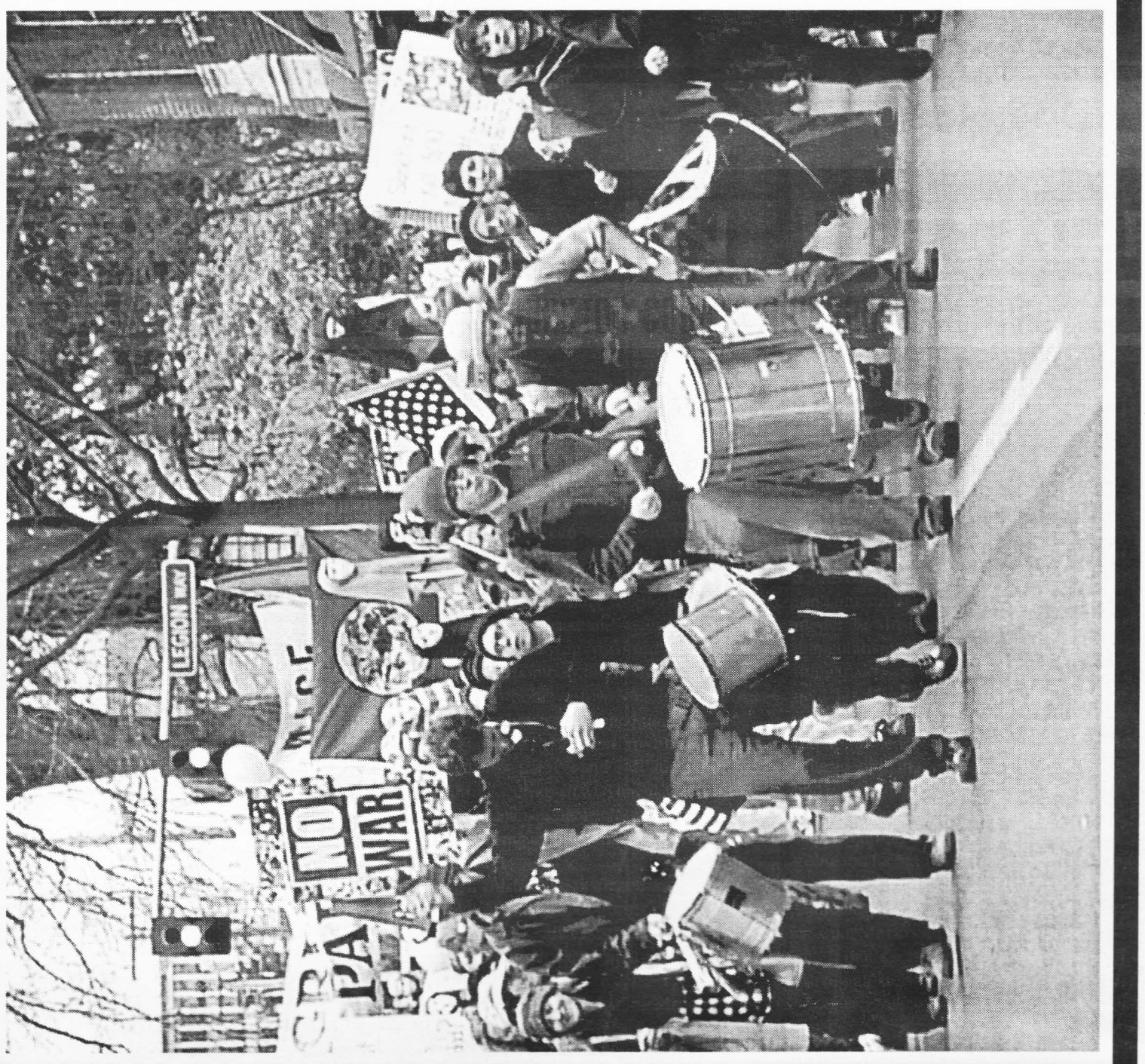
WORKS IN PROGRESS



- 1 -
Preventative Strike
Against Your Neighbor
&
15 Years of Solidarity
with Nicaragua

- 5 -
Nuns Disable Nuclear
Missile Silo

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No War On Iraq
February 15th Protest

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Along the Color Line
Affirmative Action

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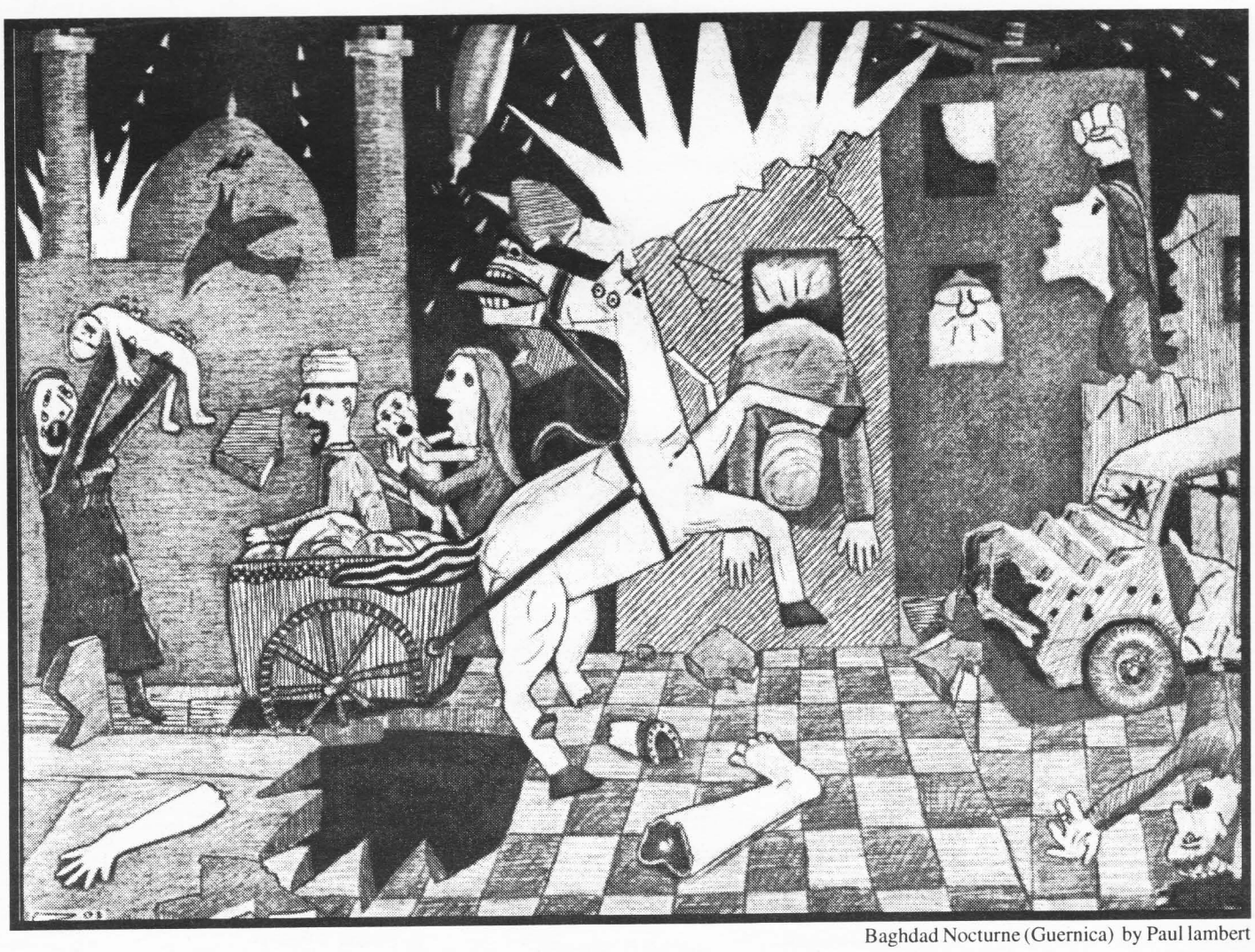
Know More
Elliot Abrams



Baghdad Nocturne (Guernica) by Paul lambert

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